

MASS SPECTROMETRY OF COLONIZATION FACTORS

Abstract

Disclosed herein are methods for identifying at least one bacterial colonization factor of enterotoxigenic *E. coli* which comprise the following steps in the following order: 1) obtaining the colonization factor; 2) solubilizing the colonization factor by dissolving the colonization factor in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol; 3) adding a solution of volatile acid to the solubilized colonization factor of step 2 to obtain a product; 4) subjecting the product of step 3 to mass spectrometry to determine the mass of the colonization factor; and 5) comparing the mass determined in step 4 with the mass of at least one known colonization factor.